tightened for search as the airport following a series of fake passport and visa busts;

(b) if so, whether fake passports issued are on increase for the last few years;

(c) whether Government have conducted any enquiry on the issue of fake passports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what steps Government propose to take to check the increase in fake passports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the various agencies concerned and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Terrorist Activities by Pak

1083. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has lodged/expressed its unhappiness over the reported United States Administration decision for not including Pakistan in the list of countries supporting international terrorism when incontrovertible evidence that has been given time and again clearly established/proved that Pakistan was a State sponsor of terrorism;

(b) if so, when, and at what diplomatic levels;

(c) whether the attention of the Government of U.S.A. has also been drawn to Mr. Mc Curry's admission that the State Department's Report (1992) on international terrorism did say that "there had been credible reports of official Pakistani support for Kashmiri militants who undertake acts of terrorism in Indian controlled Kashmir"; if so, the reaction/response of U.S.A. thereto; and

(d) what further action Government of India propose to take at diplomatic levels with such countries which are friendly to India keeping in view that US decision may embolden Pakistan to increase its support for terrorist activities in J & K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have been in touch with the US Government on a continuous basis and Government's reaction was conveyed to the US Government at the official level shortly after the announcement of the US Government's decision.

(c) Yes, Sir. In addition, Government have also drawn the US Government's attention to the CIA Director's testimony before the US Senate Judiciary Committee in April 93 that Pakistan was "on the brink" of being declared a state sponsor of terrorism for providing safe heaven to Kashmiri and Sikh terrorists. The US Government's Official Spokesman Mr. McCurry said that according to the US, Pakistan has shown willingness to address US concerns on this issue and the US has seen some real progress. Pakistan has made some changes in its military and ISI personnel and the US has found the new people to be more co-operative over the past six months. Mr. McCurry said that available information does not warrant a determination that Pakistan has "repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism", which is the statutory test for a state being placed on the list.

(b) Government have repeatedly conveyed to the US that Pakistan continues to aid and abet terrorism in India. Government will continue to apprise friendly foreign governments, including the US, about Pakistan's state sponsorship of international terrorism.

Pending Passport Applications in Chandigarh

1084. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications for passport lying pending in passport office at Chandigarh and Jalandhar as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of applications is increasing every year, if so, the details during the last three years year-wise;

(c) whether the staff, has been increased in the passport offices to clear the backlog expeditiously, if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the staff, in view of the fact that Government have increased the passport fee;

(e) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to computerise the